

# The Old Stone Wall

## E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

Vol 5, Issue 1

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## Paying tribute to Rick & Duffy Monahon: New Hampshire Preservationists

In January, New Hampshire lost two well-loved and well-respected advocates of historic preservation when Richard (Rick) and Mary (Duffy) Monahon were killed in a car accident in Hillsborough. Together, they left a long and proud legacy of preservation work across New Hampshire.

Rick had practiced architecture from his Peterborough office since 1975, and his first project was the renovation of the textile mills in Harrisville. Historic Harrisville, Inc., where Rick served as architect, construction manager and later a



board member, was formed in 1971 after the mills, which had been the lifeblood of the village since the early 19th century, closed. The initial phase of the project saved the buildings, made them self-sustaining and created jobs both for the project and for those who continue to use the buildings today as commercial space.

Another hallmark project in Rick's career, the preservation of the 1912 Gregg Free Library in Wilton, earned Monahon Architects a New Hampshire American Institute of Architects Award for Excellence in 2008 and a New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Achievement Award in 2011. The project spanned ten years and made the building accessible to the entire community, brought the heating, insulation, electrical and plumbing systems into the 21st century, and restored its historic finishes, including the mosaic tile floor.

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The DHR is a state resource agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

window sash, original decorative paint and ceiling stencils.

Known as a preservation tour-de-force, Duffy had served as a member of the State Historical Resources Council since 1992 and was very active in her home community of Peterborough; she was on the town's Heritage Commission and Conservation Commission and was particularly proud of her efforts to preserve Depot Square.

Thanks to Duffy's perseverance, the Stratham location of the 1926 steel swing "Singing Bridge" is celebrated with a four-panel display delineating the history of the removed structure. The bridge was replaced in 2001, and mitigation efforts called for an exhibit to interpret the history of the

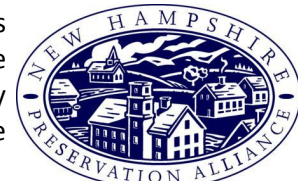
Stratham-Newfields crossing. Former State Architectural Historian James Garvin drafted the text for the exhibit, but the N.H. Department of Transportation project officially closed before the panels could be designed, fabricated and installed. At the time, Duffy was volunteering at the Bureau of Environment at NHDOT, working closely with Joyce McKay. According to Garvin, "Duffy proceeded into the field, finding the original documents in historical societies, libraries and in the hands of private owners. She photographed these images and then designed and laid out each of the panels." The exhibit was installed in the summer of 2012.



Rick and Duffy will long be remembered for these and other important projects. Their legacy will live on throughout New Hampshire, and those of us who work in the preservation field are grateful for having had the opportunity to work with them.

## ***Historic Buildings for the Next Century: statewide preservation conference***

Join community leaders, preservation advocates, contractors, students and others for New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's statewide biennial spring conference. Co-sponsored by and held at Plymouth State University, in Plymouth, N.H., the conference will take place on Friday, March 22, 2013.



Conference participants will be challenged to think about preservation's role in building a strong and sustainable future. Topics will include creative re-use strategies for historic properties, how to effectively position a preservation project for funding success, and the benefits and synergies of aligning preservation efforts with local trends in agriculture, business and community development. Elizabeth Muzzey, Director of the Division of Historical Resources, will participate in a panel on "Preservation and Community Planning." Mary Kate Ryan, State Survey Coordinator, will lead a discussion on "The Next Generation of

Preservation." Nadine Peterson, Preservation Planner, will moderate the panel on "Section 106 Consulting Parties and Public Participation."

Complete details and online registration at: [www.nhpreservation.org](http://www.nhpreservation.org)

## Two properties added to the State Register

The State Historical Resources Council is pleased to announce that two more properties have been added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The most recent additions are:



1945-49.

The Governor Charles Dale Estate, in **North Hampton**, shows the common evolution of a 19th century working farm into a 20th century "gentleman's farm" or estate. Charles Milby Dale purchased the property in 1941 and hired prominent colonial revival architect Royal Barry Wills to design a new house for it. An attorney, Dale was prominent in New Hampshire politics, serving as mayor of Portsmouth, state senate president, executive councilor, and governor from

In 1916, George Edwin Whitcomb, son of **Swanzy**'s first mill-owning family, commissioned Whitcomb Hall as a way to give back to the community. The hall, one of several public buildings commissioned by local industrialists, was designed and constructed as a true community center and has hosted a wide variety of events. In addition to an assembly and banquet room on the ground floor, it has a fully stocked kitchen, including commissioned china purchased for use at community events.



For more information about the New Hampshire State Register, visit the Division of Historical Resources website at: [www.nh.gov/nhdhr](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr).

## Summer 2013 SCRAP field school: Fox State Forest, Hillsborough

New Hampshire State Archaeologist Richard Boisvert announces the details of the 2013 State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP), which is open to volunteers (age 16+) and university credit students. The goal of the 2013 program is to train members of the public in the conduct of scientific archaeological survey in order to discover previously unknown aspects of New Hampshire's past through hands-on participatory learning.

The field school will take place from June 24 through August 2 in concurrent two-week sessions, operating Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Fox State Forest is in the town of Hillsborough, in southwestern New Hampshire.

Dr. Boisvert may be contacted via email: [richard.a.boisvert@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:richard.a.boisvert@dcr.nh.gov) Additional details about the 2013 summer field school may be viewed at: [www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm).

## Honoring SCRAP volunteers at annual dinner

Volunteers from the 2012 summer SCRAP (State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program) gathered on February 15 at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests' Conservation Center in Concord to reminisce about their work last summer in Jefferson, N.H., and to make plans for the 2013 SCRAP field school at Fox State Forest (see article above).

The annual dinner was attended by 40 volunteers and included recognition of the participants who had made significant contributions to the program. Pictured below are State Archaeologist Dr. Richard Boisvert and the awardees.



*Abigail Heath, Sarah MacDonald, Richard Boisvert, Amelia Evans Brown, Marika Labash*

Additional details about the 2013 summer field school may be viewed at: [www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm).

### Mid-20th century modern N.H. architecture featured in blog



*First United Methodist Church, Gilford  
Daniel Tully, Architect*

May is National Preservation Month! In celebration, the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is creating a blog featuring the results of an exciting new study: "The Mid-20th Century Modern Architecture in New Hampshire Context, 1945-1975." Preservation Consultant Lisa Mausolf spent six months establishing historic and architectural contexts for New Hampshire's architecture of the recent past and investigating the themes, designers and new technologies that

influenced buildings of that period. The report focuses primarily on high-style buildings, designed by architects and used for non-residential purposes. The highlights of the study, including period photographs, will be presented in a weekly blog throughout the month of May.

The preliminary results of Mausolf's study were presented at a public forum at the Concord City Library on February 12. An enthusiastic crowd of more than 70 participants learned about the study results and listened to a panel discussion that included James L. Garvin (retired State Architectural Historian); Randy Mudge (N.H. architect); Roy Banwell (N.H. architect) and Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director, NHAIA). The panel was moderated by James Loft, Senior Vice President, PCI Architecture.

### State Historical Resources Council elects new officers

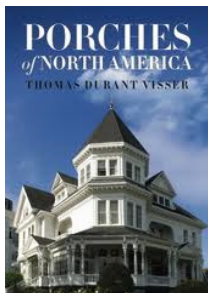
At the January 28, 2013 meeting of the State Historical Resources Council (SHRC), David Starbuck, Plymouth, was elected Chair and Carolyn Baldwin, Gilmanton, was elected Vice Chair. The Council also welcomed newly appointed member James Garvin.

The SHRC was established in 1985 (RSA 227-C:13). The Council has the power and duty to:



approve nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; review and recommend the approval of the state survey of historic properties; review and approve the contents of the state historic preservation plan; review and recommend application by the division for federal and other available funds; review and recommend the removal of properties from the National Register; otherwise act in an advisory capacity to the Division of Historical Resources; administer all federal funds received for historic preservation. The Council meets quarterly (January, April, July, September); meetings are open to the public.

## All Books Great and Small .... Recommendations from the DHR Staff



*Porches of North America*; Thomas Visser; Hanover, University Press of New England, 2012.

*Elaine Loft, Program Assistant at the Division of Historical Resources, is thinking ahead to warmer days on her own porch.*

Although the Cape Cod is the quintessential New England building type, it usually lacks a key element, a front porch. A front porch offers a dry, shaded location to read a book, drink iced tea or watch the comings and goings of one's neighbors. A front porch is like an open door, welcoming passersby to stop and converse. Visser notes that front porches suffered in the 1950s and 60s when privacy became more of an issue. *Porches of North America* covers the history of porches dating back to ancient Greece and contains a glossary of types of porches and their popularity over time.

*Porches of North America* is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Learn more about preservation programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [News and Events Page](#) of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, the [NH Preservation Alliance Events web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and the "history" section of [nh365.org](http://nh365.org). Also visit [PreservationDirectory.com](http://PreservationDirectory.com), a national portal with links to a wide and expanding range of preservation events, sources and resources.

*Staff of the NH Division of Historical Resources prepared this newsletter, edited by Elaine P. Loft.*

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